ensure speedy eradication of the disease, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The World Health Assembly resolved in 1998 that all member countries should take effective steps to eradicate Police from the earth by the year 2000 A.D. Although this resolution was endorsed by India, a special annual drive, the Pulse Polio Immunisation Compaign, could only be launched from 1995-96. This programme is in addition to the on going universal immunisation programme. Under the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme all children below five years of age, are given polio drops on two specific days, separated by six weeks, every year, in the winter season. Complete eradication of polio requires a fulfledged surveillance system capable of detecting, following up and initiating containment measures in respect of every case of polio recuring anywhere in the country. The National Surveillance Unit was set up in this country with the assistance of World Health Organisation (WHO) and DANIDA in 1997. Successful of the Surveillance Unit has now resulted in detection of a large number of cases which otherwise would have gone unreported. As a result of the active surveillance throughout the country, 2272 confirmed polio cases were detected in 1997 and in 1998, upto November 1998, the number of cases reported is 2232. The World Health Organisation, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and other experts have new advised that for speedy eradicating of polio, it would be necessary to take certain additional measures apart from the continuation of the Pulse Polio Programme and the routine immunisation programme. Arrangements are being made for taking effective action in accordance with the advice of the experts and to bring the incidence of polio to 'zero level' within the next few years.

Financial assistance to Medical Colleges / Hospitals in Kerala

2224. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala has requested the Centre to sanction financial assistance for the expansion and development of medical colleges and hospitals in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Rs. 1.50 lakhs have been sanctioned in 1997-98 for Medical College, Kozhikode, Kerala for development of Oncology Wing. The Government of Kerala submitted a proposal for establishing a Cancer Institute and Research Centre at Ernakulam involving a total outlay of Rs. 51.00 crores. This proposal was not agreed to as adequate facilities, as well as Cobalt Therapy Unit (with 50 beds) were already present in the Cancer Ward of District Hospital, Ernakulam. A proposal has also been received for upgrading the secondary system of health care in Kerala with external assistance. The Union Government is however at present giving priority to States with poor health indices and other parameters of backwardness.

Academy of Medical Sciences, Pariyaram, Kannur, Kerala has requested for financial assistance under the scheme, 'Development of Oncology Wings in Medical Colleges'. This request is required to be placed before the Standing Committee.

Fighting Major-diseases with WHO Assistance

2225. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: